

Navy Entomology Steering Committee (NESC) Minutes

Meeting Place: Navy Environmental Health Center, Norfolk, VA

Meeting Time: 14-15 Sep 98

Members Present: CDR C. Church – DVECC JAX (Specialty Leader)
CDR M. Mann – DVECC Bangor
CDR J. Conlon – DVECC JAX
LCDR S. Cope – NEHC (Central Coordinator)
LCDR S. Presley – Operating Forces (Chairman)
LT S. Lee – EPMU5

Members Absent: LCDR M. Bangs – NAMRU2
LCDR S. Rankin – EPMU2

Old Business

98-01 Review of NESC Charter

DISCUSSION: This was the first NESC meeting since the charter was approved by CO NEHC. The charter will be reviewed on an annual basis, especially to update membership.

RECOMMENDATION: No changes necessary.

ACTION: None.

FOLLOW-UP: Standing item for review at every NESC meeting.

98-02 Review of Progress on Strategic Plan

DISCUSSION: Input from the entomology community has been sparse. The Plan was updated and primary/secondary goalkeepers were assigned for the four strategic goals as follows:

- Goal 1 – CDR Conlon, CDR Mann
- Goal 2 – LCDR Presley, LCDR Rankin
- Goal 3 – LCDR Cope, LCDR Bangs
- Goal 4 – CDR Church, LT Lee

Concept is that goalkeepers would be responsible for tracking progress on assigned goals and then reporting to ESC.

RECOMMENDATION: Revisit at next ESC meeting and discuss just how much we can expect to get done each year and how to go about assigning tasks. Chains of command, PCS moves, deployments, and other issues all will affect progress on the Plan.

ACTION: Review content/progress of plan at each meeting.

FOLLOW UP: Next meeting.

98-03 Working Group Recommendations from Operational Entomology Workshop

DISCUSSION: Most, if not all of the working group recommendations (WGRs) from the Feb 98 OET Workshop are not being acted on for a variety of reasons (see DVECC ltr 5050 ser 00/812502 of 5 May 98 as reference). It was noted that some of the WGRs were very similar to items in the Strategic Plan. These items should be rolled in to the Strategic Plan where they can be better tracked.

RECOMMENDATION: Reword and move to Strategic Plan; Goal 1 - FMF working group; Goal 1, Strategy 1 and Goal 3, Strategy 1 of Research working group.

ACTION: Items written into Strategic Plan as 4.b.3, 4.e.3, and 4.b. 2 respectively.

FOLLOW UP: Action officers for each item are assigned in the Strategic Plan. Review progress at next meeting.

98-04 Specialty Leader Update/Community News

DISCUSSION: CDR Church reported that there are 2 accessions for FY98 and 1 for FY99.

RECOMMENDATION: None.

ACTION: None.

FOLLOW UP: Standing item from Specialty Leader at each ESC meeting.

New Business

98-05 Specialty Briefing Report for Promotion Boards

DISCUSSION: The O3/O4 and O5/O6 Specialty Briefing Reports do not accurately reflect the operational support provided by Navy entomologists.

RECOMMENDATION: Specialty Briefing Reports should be completely rewritten in time for the next round of promotion boards (1999).

ACTION: CDR Conlon wrote a draft report that was then edited by the ESC. A final product was produced on 15 Sep 98.

FOLLOW UP: CDR Church will ensure that the new reports are posted in the appropriate locations.

98-06 AQIS/Quarantine Update

DISCUSSION: This is still a difficult issue and not much movement has occurred. DVECC Bangor or EPMU6 will possibly send one individual to the AQIS course in November.

RECOMMENDATION: None.

ACTION: None.

FOLLOW UP: OIC DVECC Bangor will provide regular updates on this dynamic and difficult issue.

98-07 “Functions” Statement on NEHC Entomology Homepage

DISCUSSION: The “Functions” statement on the NEHC/Entomology homepage does not accurately represent the operational nature of Navy entomology.

RECOMMENDATION: Rewrite this statement.

ACTION: LCDR Cope will use the new Specialty Briefing Reports as a go-by for rewriting the statement and post the new statement after review by ESC members.

FOLLOW UP: Next meeting.

98-08 GEIS Funding Update

DISCUSSION: GEIS funds still have not been allocated for FY99. The DVECCs and EPMUs have a number of proposals under consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: None.

ACTION: None.

FOLLOW UP: LCDR Cope will inquire as to when any funding will be announced.

98-09 Possible New Billet in Australia

DISCUSSION: LCDR Cope has held preliminary discussions with members of the Australian Defence Force and the Australian Army Malaria Institute about trying to get a U.S. Navy entomologist assigned to Australia. The 2nd factor driving this idea is the ongoing quarantine issue with Australian officials.

RECOMMENDATION: The entomology specialty leader should continue to investigate this possibility.

ACTION: CDR Church will write a point paper and present it to the appropriate agencies.

FOLLOW UP: Next ESC meeting.

98-10 BUMED/NAVFAC MOA

DISCUSSION: Item tabled to next meeting.

98-11 Representation on Navy Epidemiology Board

DISCUSSION: The Navy Epidemiology Board (NEB) usually meets twice a year at NEHC. The EH community has had a non-voting representative for about five years. Many of the issues that entomologists deal with can affect members of the NEB, eg. pesticide reporting, vaccines, etc.

RECOMMENDATION: The NEHC entomologist should serve on the NEB.

ACTION: LCDR Cope will check status of the NEB instruction.

FOLLOW UP: Next meeting.

98-12 Field Opportunities for Junior Officers

DISCUSSION: This was generated by a Request for Action Paper (RAP) presented by LT Lee. Some JOs feel that field opportunities are limited. ESC members agreed that field opportunities are affected by many factors including timing, duty station, world situation, disasters, etc. The OICs of the DVECCs make every effort to get JOs into the field as much as possible.

RECOMMENDATION: None.

ACTION: None.

FOLLOW UP: Closed.

98-13 Duty At Research Units for Junior Officers

DISCUSSION: This topic was generated by a RAP. Concern was expressed that JOs, especially those with a Master's degree, aren't getting enough opportunities at the overseas research labs. Consensus of the ESC was 1) JOs with PhDs, usually O-3s, are regularly assigned to the research units, and 2) for many reasons, it is best to have a PhD to work at an overseas lab.

RECOMMENDATION: None.

ACTION: None.

FOLLOW UP: Closed.

98-14 Manual/TIM for Ship Washdown/Inspection

DISCUSSION: This was a RAP from LT Hoel that was presented by LT Lee. Although a TIM exists for agricultural washdowns for rolling stock, weapons and personal gear, a similar document for shipboard procedures doesn't exist. LT Hoel has offered to write such a document.

RECOMMENDATION: Explore need/desire for such a document.

ACTION: None.

FOLLOW UP: Discuss more fully at next meeting.

98-15 Outfills

DISCUSSION: CDR Church said that as Specialty Leader he can't recruit vs. outfills anymore. We currently have 2 people in school and 3 in outfills. We may have to cut back in the future.

RECOMMENDATION: None.

ACTION: None.

FOLLOW UP: Closed.

98-16 Shore Station Review Reports

DISCUSSION: Many of our units perform shore station reviews but there is no standard template for the report. Information may be more useful for comparison and reporting if the report was standardized.

RECOMMENDATION: Develop template for shore station review reports.

ACTION: DVECC JAX (CDR Church).

FOLLOW UP: Review template at next meeting.

